

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 with the following amended paragraph:

According to a second aspect, the present invention provides an ordering method comprising transmitting sales information from an agent server to a user terminal via a communications network, the sales information containing sales items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via the communications network. The user terminal displays the transmitted sales information allowing a user to select an item and transmits a request signal to the server for a service charge required for inspecting the selected item. The agent server determines the service charge depending on contents of the request signal and a cost database, and transmits the determined service charge to the user terminal. The user terminal displays the transmitted service charge to allow the user to make a decision as to whether an inspection of the selected item is to be performed and transmits a request signal to the server for indicating that the selected item be inspected when the user makes the decision. The agent server transmits an inspection report of the item to the user terminal, which displays the transmitted inspection report to allow the user to make a decision as to whether the item is to be purchased and transmits a purchase order to the agent server for requesting a purchase of the selected item on behalf of the user when the user makes the decision. The agent server transmits an acknowledgment message to the user terminal in response to the purchase order.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 with the following amended paragraph:

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According to a third aspect, the present invention provides an ordering method comprising transmitting sales information from an agent server to a user terminal via a communications network, the sales information containing sales items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via the communications network. At the user terminal, the transmitted sales information is displayed, allowing a user to select an item and a request signal is sent to the server for a service charge required for making a search for a desired item if the desired item is not found in the displayed information. The agent server determines the service charge depending on contents of the request signal and a cost database, and transmits the determined service charge to the user terminal. The user terminal displays the transmitted service charge to allow the user to make a decision as to whether the search is to be performed and transmitting a request signal to the server for indicating that the desired item be searched when the user makes the decision. In response, the agent prepares a search report of the selected item. The search reports is transmitted from the agent server to the user terminal, where it is displayed to allow the user to make a decision as to whether the item is to be purchased. When the user makes the decision, a purchase order is sent from the user terminal to the agent server for requesting a purchase of the item on behalf of the user. The agent server transmits an acknowledgment message to the user terminal in response to the purchase order.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 with the following amended paragraph:

According to a fourth aspect, the present invention provides an ordering method comprising the steps of (a) transmitting sales information from an agent server to a user terminal

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via a communications network, the sales information containing sales items that are only available in sales shops which are not accessible via the communications network, (b) at the user terminal, displaying the transmitted sales information to allow a user to select one of a plurality of decision branches, (c) transmitting to the agent server a purchase order if the user selects a first decision branch, a first request signal for requesting a first service charge required for inspecting a desired item contained in the displayed information if the user selects a second decision branch, and a second request signal for requesting a second service charge required for making a search of a desired item which is not contained in the displayed information if the user selects a third decision branch, (d) at the agent server, determining the first service charge if the first request signal is received depending on contents of the first request signal and a cost database, determining the second service charge if the second request signal is received depending on contents of the second request signal and a cost database, and transmitting the determined first or second service charge to the user terminal, (e) at the user terminal, displaying the transmitted service charge to allow the user to make a decision as to whether an inspection or a search of the desired item is to be performed and transmitting a request signal to the server for indicating that the desired item be inspected or searched when the user makes the decision, (f) at the agent server, transmitting an inspection report of the item or a search report of the item to the user terminal, depending on contents of the request signal of step (e), (g) at the user terminal, displaying the transmitted inspection report or search report to allow the user to make a decision as to whether the item is to be purchased and transmitting a purchase order to the agent server for requesting a purchase of the item on behalf of the user if the user makes the decision, and (h) at

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the agent server, transmitting an acknowledgment message to the user terminal if the purchase order of step (c) or step (g) is received.